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Washington LABOR MARKET

Washington State
Employment Security
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Highlights

Fits And Starts . . . Will Someone Get It In Gear!

So where did Washington's economy go in March? Answer: precisely nowhere. A definite trend was developing through January and February which underscored some gradual improvement in the rate of economic growth. Employment was rising at an average of 10,000 workers a month after holding flat through the fourth quarter. The pivotal services and trade sectors of the economy were gathering strength and construction seemed to be springing back to life.

Then March hit. Every good economist knows that a single month does not a trend make. However, statewide nonfarm employment inched higher by only 11,000 workers in March - the smallest for the month in 20 years - and actually *dropped* by 10,000 when adjusted for normal seasonal

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variation. So much for a developing trend! Furthermore, any signs of weakness in March cut virtually across the board in terms of industries, defying any speculation that something unique was happening.

The best explanation is that a combination of factors converged in March. One is simply the tenuous nature of the recovery to date. An on-again, off-again pattern has become *derigueur* ever since the national economy slipped out of recession probably sometime last spring. Judging from the spate of recent monthly statistics, there is as yet no clear indication that the national economy is indeed rebounding. And uncertainty breeds caution on the part of employers, even for normal seasonal hiring.

Secondly, weather this year has played a big role. Temperatures held above normal and precipitation below normal throughout most of the late-winter and early-spring. The results tended to shave the peaks and troughs of the regular seasonal cycle. But taken on a quarterly basis, the average for the first three months of the year still showed an economy moving forward at a respectable 2.4 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate as opposed to less than 1 percent for all of 1991.

And finally, news of pending layoffs at Boeing, closure of the venerable Frederick and Nelson department store chain, and merger of the state's two largest commercial banks added an extra measure of caution. These seemingly unrelated chain of events all hit the news media more or less simultaneously and were aimed specifically at the greater Central Puget Sound area which heretofore had largely escaped any significant employment losses.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by two-tenths of a percentage point in March from 7.5 percent to 7.7 percent of the work force - the highest in five years. While the monthly change was relatively modest, the jobless count in the state has heightened by half a percentage point since the first of the year and nearly two per-

centage points over the past 12 months. The result succeeded in pushing the state's jobless rate (7.7 percent) above the national average (7.3 percent) in March for the third consecutive month.

If history be any sort of guide, there is no way that Washington should reasonably be expected to maintain an unemployment rate which consistently tracks below that of the nation as a whole. Washington has a higher than average seasonal component to its economic base - forest products, agriculture/food processing, and recreation/tourism - which causes wide employment fluctuations during the course of a typical year. In addition, migration plays an important role in overall population movements of the state and erratic changes in the labor force count are not unusual. While the state's economy is gradually becoming more service-oriented over time, much like the nation, manufacturing and agriculture are viable forces in Washington and destined to remain so through the foreseeable future.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Mar 1992 *Preliminary*	Feb 1992 *Revised*	Mar 1991
Seasonally Adjusted:			
State Unemployment Rate	7.7%	7.3%	6.1%
National Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.3%	6.7%
Not Seasonally Adjusted:			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,523,400	2,536,800	2,474,000
Employment	2,313,900	2,323,100	2,310,300
Unemployment	209,500	213,700	163,700
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.4%	6.6%

Source: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in the state inched higher by only 11,000 workers in March - the lightest increment for the month in 21 years. Something on the order of 20,000 would have been more normal. Typically, both services and trade expand significantly with the start-up of spring. However, this year entered the period at a higher than average base because of weather, and

employers generally remained cautious in their hiring practices because of the ongoing fragile state of the economy.

Virtually all sectors were affected to varying degrees. Services employment expanded by 3,500 workers over the month with far less than year-earlier movement in amusements and recreation (+300) and health care (+300), particularly hospitals (-100). Solid gains were posted in business (+800) and social services (+500). At the same time, payroll additions in wholesale and retail trade (+2,600) also proved lighter than normal. Building (+500) and garden supplies (+600) showed a fairly typical buildup. But food stores showed no change and department stores (-500) actually pulled back over the month.

Industrial Payrolls Go Nowhere

Manufacturing, meanwhile, proved to be flat in March. Small incremental movements in either direction tended to offset one another for the most part. And on a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing payrolls fell by 2,200 workers. What failed to materialize was any perceptible buildup in the resource-based industries including food and kindred products, printing and publishing, and stone, clay, and glass. Logically, the mitigating effect of weather served as a big part of the cause. However, the balance must be attributed to more basic economic factors.

For one, aerospace has shifted from expansion to retrenchment. Boeing announced an expected 6,500-worker reduction for 1992, and employment has scaled back by 1,300 since the first of the year. This follows a generally flat employment setting through 1991 after a buildup which added 56,000 workers from 1984 to 1990. Indeed, the *bloom is off the rose* as far as employment is concerned. But the industry is still operating at 113,500 workers - higher than any year in history save the last couple years - with an impressive order backlog which virtually assures continued high levels of production through 1995.

Less sanguine is the outlook for lumber and wood products. Job levels were firm through the first quarter. A runup in demand boosted lumber prices accordingly. However, smaller independent mills which traditionally move in

and out of the market depending upon where demand is positioned will no longer be players now that available timber supply is being squeezed. Limits on log exports and softer international economies spell further constraints both short and long-term. Hence, the best that can be expected for the industry this year is some modicum of recovery coming out of a faster national economic clip serving to offset some of the ongoing restructuring facing the industry overall.

Construction Bounces Back To The Line

Payrolls in construction showed a seasonal boost of 1,600 workers in March. Gains for building construction and heavy construction proved to be relatively modest. Most of the month-to-month increase centered among special trade contractors (+1,100) which include plumbers, painters, roofers, carpenters and electricians. Realistically, this segment of the industry leads off the spring cleanup-fixup mode before the seasonal buildup in new housing starts and other construction.

But construction employment *fell* by 3,500 workers when seasonally adjusted. This brought worker levels in the industry back to the average of the fourth quarter after a temporary blip which was widely heralded as a pickup beginning in January. It appears now that the driving force for construction in the first quarter was probably more weather-related than anything else.

Year-To-Year Comparisons Also Taper Off

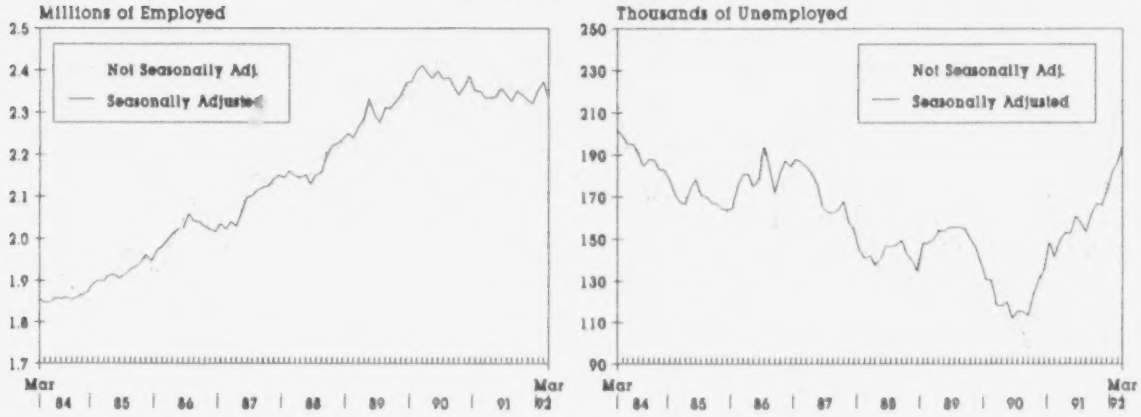
Over the year, Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment was up 31,600 workers in March. The spread narrowed from better than 44,000 on average in January and February. But in passing, it should be noted that the year-ago months against which the current comparisons are made were extraordinary. The state experienced a sharp dropoff in employment between December and January last year, which has been variously ascribed to a combination of emerging recession plus the add on of the Persian Gulf War which was not repeated anytime during the balance of the year. Hence, the year-to-year margin ballooned in the initial

months because of the differences between the two periods and both have now returned to a more normal reading.

On balance, services (+17,700) and government (+15,500) have accounted for the bulk of the state's employment growth over the past year. Lesser gains have come in wholesale and retail trade (+2,500) and the transportation, communications, and utilities sectors (+2,200) of the economy. Health services (+7,900) and local government (+11,700) including local education (+3,700) stand out as major drivers. Both construction and finance have been flat.

Manufacturing, on the other hand, has lost ground. Employment in Washington's basic goods-producing sector was off 5,800 workers over the year in March. The shortfall has centered particularly in transportation equipment manufacturing (-3,300) and heavy machinery production (-1,300) with scattered losses in primary metals (-700), food and kindred products (-500), and printing and publishing (-400). Lumber and wood products (+300), after dropping 4,100 workers a year before, looked to be relatively unchanged.

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
March 1984 - March 1992



Source: Employment Security Department

AREA TRENDS

Only A Seasonal Pattern Causes Any Noise

Washington's metropolitan areas on average saw practically no change in the prevailing unemployment rate for March. The average moved fractionally lower from 7.7 percent to 7.6 percent of the work force with extremes ranging from 6.3 percent in the King County portion of the Seattle PMSA to 15.7 percent in the Franklin County portion of the Tri-Cities. Tacoma and Spokane registered 8.4 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively. Early agricultural activity pulled unemployment down marginally over the month in urban centers with a substantial farm bent: specifically Yakima (from 15.8 percent to 15.3 percent) and, once again, Franklin County (17.5 percent to 15.7 percent).

The jobless average for all of eastern Washington shifted lower in March from 11.7 percent to 11.2 percent. And, following suit, seasonal factors pushed the unemployment rate in the timber dependent counties down better than half a percentage point over the month from 13.5 percent to 12.9 percent of the area work force. Those counties running counter to trend were Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Garfield counties where jobless rates actually hiked up in March by an average of more than one percent.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas
State of Washington

Areas	Mar 1992	Feb 1992	Mar 1991
Washington State Total	8.3%	8.4%	6.6%
Metropolitan Areas	7.6%	7.7%	6.0%
Log & Lumber Areas	12.9%	13.5%	10.8%
All Western WA Areas	7.5%	7.5%	5.8%
All Eastern WA Areas	11.2%	11.7%	9.5%

Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Economics 101 Revisited

The relationship between supply and demand hit lumber markets with a vengeance in the first quarter. Lumber prices soared to record highs with Random Length's com-

posite average of lumber prices up 49 percent in late-March to $326 per thousand board feet from $219 a year before. Fully 35 percent of the uptick took place in the first quarter alone. The effect has been to add anywhere from $5,000 to $7,000 to a $120,000 house. The cause is a classic case of demand-pull. The industry has been severely impacted by dwindling timber supplies coming out of court and administrative action aimed at protecting the northern spotted owl. And at the same time, mild weather and reduced interest rates have escalated the pace of new construction.

Washington Wine A Winner

Increasingly, more premium varieties of wine are being produced in the state of Washington with exemplary results. Eight of the state's wines last year were listed on the Wine Spectator's list of the top 100 throughout the world. About 10,900 acres of premium wine grapes are under cultivation in 155 vineyards with annual growth of roughly 700 acres or 7 percent over the past three years. Fully 98 percent of the grape production is located in eastern Washington, particularly in the Columbia and Yakima valleys. The state now has 85 wineries. Sales were up 6 percent in 1991. Watch out California.

One In and One Out

South Puget Sound will lose one Boeing subcontractor and gain another over the next couple years. Rohr Industries announced it will close its 170-worker Auburn plant by the end of July. The 35-year-old plant built engine housing components for Boeing, but gradually over time that work has shifted internally within the company. Meanwhile, a Japanese manufacturer, Toray Composites, announced plans to build a $40 million plant at the Frederickson site near Tacoma adjacent to the wing plant Boeing is building to produce components for the 777. Employment is targeted at 150.

Don't Pay 'N Save . . . Pay Less

Payless Drug Stores has bought Pay 'n Save's four-state, 4,500 worker chain of 124 drug stores (including 95 in Washington) as part of a $275 million transaction. Adding Pay 'n Save's outlets to it own 59 stores and 2,000 workers

will make Payless the major drug store chain in the state. Executive and administrative staff of Pay 'n Save, however, will be one of the casualties of the buyout. Approximately 375 workers are expected to be cut.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

GDP Up But Not Away

The nation's economy grew faster in the first quarter than originally pegged but still remained lackluster in terms of historical perspective. Real gross domestic product, the inflation-adjusted measure of output of all goods and services produced in the U. S., increased at a 2.4 percent annual rate in the first quarter - the highest since the first quarter of 1989 but half the average for a typical postwar recovery. The previous estimate was 2 percent. Unfortunately, most of the upward revision reflected higher inventories rather than sales. But an encouraging separate report stated that after-tax corporate profits surged at an 8 percent annual rate in the first quarter - the biggest in four years. Furthermore, bank officers noted a recent pickup in consumer and small business loan demand.

Industrial Output Still Trying

Total production of the nation's factories, mines, and utilities edged up in March by 0.2 percent after climbing 0.5 percent a month before. These gains marked the first back-to-back increases since last summer and followed four consecutive months of decline. Whatever upward movement is taking place in industrial production is certainly encouraging if subdued. And the 78 percent of operating capacity currently portends little pressure on inflation from supply constraints in the near term future.

And Chalk Up Three In A Row For The Crystal Ball

The government's key barometer of future business activity - the index of leading indicators - also crept up 0.2 percent in March. This was the third gain in a row. While the recovery remains in place, the index underscored the fact that the momentum over the next several months will like-

ly continue to be modest. Rising consumer expectations contributed most to March's advance - a vital element in keeping the recovery rolling.

Consumer Price Index
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. City Average	Mar 92	Feb 92	Mar 91	Feb 92	Mar 91
	139.3	138.6	135.0	0.5%	3.2%
Seattle†	Jul-Dec 1991	Jan-Jun 1991	Jul-Dec 1990	Jan-Jun 1991	Jul-Dec 1990
	135.2	133.0	129.4	1.7%	4.5%

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Dennis Fusco, Chief Economist

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Mar 1992 (Prel)	Feb 1992 (Rev)	Mar 1991 (Rev)	Feb 1991 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Feb 1992 to Mar 1992	Numeric Change: Mar 1991 to Mar 1992
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	2,165.8	2,154.8	2,134.2	2,112.3	11.0	31.6
Manufacturing	341.9	341.9	347.7	346.8	0.0	-5.8
Durable Goods	245.2	245.2	250.8	250.7	0.0	-5.6
Lumber & Wood Products	35.6	35.4	35.3	35.4	0.2	0.3
Logging	8.4	8.5	8.0	8.1	-0.1	0.4
Sawmills & Plywood	24.0	23.8	23.9	23.7	0.2	0.1
Furniture & Fixtures	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.1	0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.3	0.1	-0.2
Primary Metals	11.8	11.8	12.5	12.5	0.0	-0.7
Aluminum	8.4	8.4	8.9	8.8	0.0	-0.5
Fabricated Metals	11.5	11.5	11.7	11.7	0.0	-0.2
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	18.9	18.9	20.2	20.3	0.0	-1.3
Computer & Office Equipment	6.1	6.1	6.6	6.5	0.0	-0.5
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	11.1	11.1	11.5	11.5	0.0	-0.4
Transportation Equipment	124.9	125.2	128.2	128.2	-0.3	-3.3
Aircraft & Parts	113.5	113.8	115.1	115.1	-0.3	-1.6
Instruments & Related	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.6	-0.1	-0.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	0.0	0.3
Nondurable Goods [3]	96.7	96.7	96.9	96.1	0.0	-0.2
Food & Kindred Products	34.6	34.7	35.1	35.0	-0.1	-0.5
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.4	-0.1	0.0
Textiles, Apparel & Leather	8.3	8.2	7.8	7.6	0.1	0.5
Paper & Allied Products	17.8	17.7	17.8	17.8	0.1	0.0
Printing & Publishing	22.1	22.2	22.5	22.3	-0.1	-0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products [3]	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.1	-0.1	0.2
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.3	0.1	0.0
Mining & Quarrying	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.2
Construction	109.3	107.7	109.5	106.9	1.6	-0.2
General Building Contractors	33.0	32.9	33.1	32.7	0.1	-0.1
Heavy Construction, except Buildings	14.6	14.1	14.5	13.8	0.5	0.1
Special Trade Contractors	61.8	60.7	61.9	60.4	1.1	-0.1
Transportation, Communications & Utilities	111.6	111.5	109.4	108.8	0.1	2.2
Transportation	76.9	76.7	74.5	74.0	0.2	2.4
Trucking & Warehousing	30.2	29.8	29.0	28.9	0.4	1.2
Water Transportation	9.8	9.9	9.0	8.8	-0.1	0.8
Transportation by Air	15.9	15.9	15.5	15.4	0.0	0.4
Communications	24.6	24.6	24.9	24.9	0.0	-0.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	10.1	10.2	10.0	9.9	-0.1	0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	512.8	510.2	510.3	504.7	2.6	2.5
Wholesale Trade	127.6	127.0	127.6	126.3	0.6	0.0
Retail Trade	385.2	383.2	382.7	378.4	2.0	2.5
General Merchandise	37.1	37.6	37.6	37.9	-0.5	-0.5
Food Stores	63.6	63.5	61.4	61.1	0.1	2.2
Eating & Drinking	139.9	138.0	138.9	135.7	.9	1.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	115.3	115.1	115.8	114.6	0.2	-0.5
Finance	50.9	51.1	51.0	50.7	-0.2	-0.1
Services	542.3	538.8	524.6	517.2	3.5	17.7
Hotels & Lodging	24.8	24.9	23.7	23.2	-0.1	1.1
Personal Services	21.0	21.0	21.9	21.6	0.0	-0.9
Business Services	83.7	82.9	81.3	80.5	0.8	2.4
Health Services	160.4	160.1	152.5	151.0	0.3	7.9
Educational Services	26.1	25.9	24.9	24.5	0.2	1.2
Social Services [3]	41.5	41.0	39.0	38.8	0.5	2.5
Eng. & Management Services [3]	57.2	57.0	55.3	54.9	0.2	1.9
Government	428.9	425.9	413.4	409.8	3.0	15.5
Federal	72.2	71.8	71.4	71.2	0.4	0.8
State	125.5	124.9	122.5	121.6	0.6	3.0
State Education	66.7	65.8	64.9	64.5	0.9	1.8
Local	231.2	229.2	219.5	217.0	2.0	11.7
Local Education	123.8	122.4	120.1	118.6	1.4	3.7
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2]Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

[3]Data not comparable with previous years because of end-of-year industry code changes.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

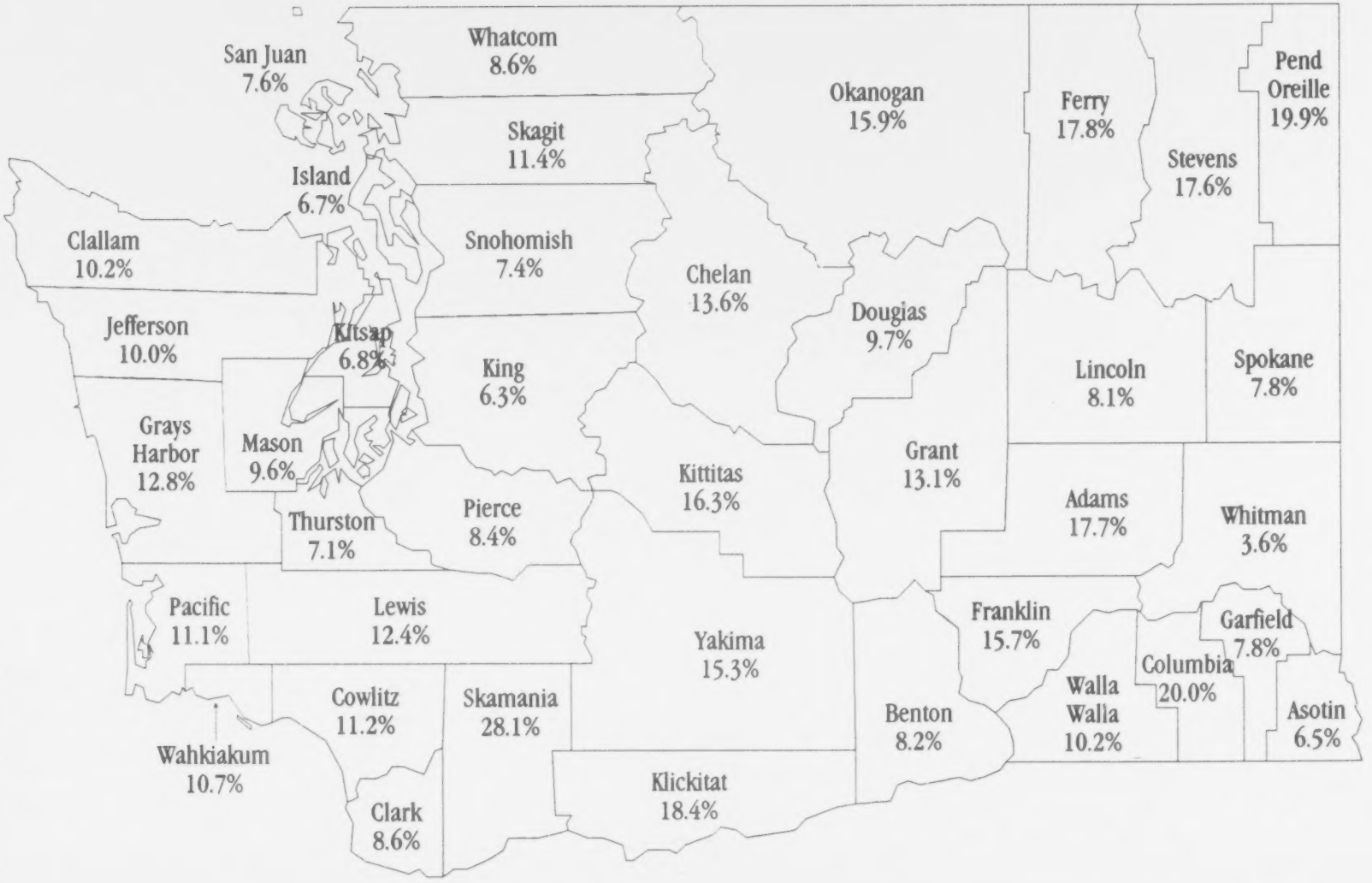
Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 5/5/92
Benchmark: 1991

Not Seasonally Adjusted	March 1992 Preliminary†				February 1992 Revised†				March 1991 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State Total	2,523,400	2,313,900	209,500	8.3	2,536,800	2,323,100	213,700	8.4	2,474,000	2,310,300	163,700	6.6
Bellingham MSA	70,100	64,100	6,000	8.6	70,800	64,400	6,400	9.0	68,800	64,200	4,600	6.7
Bremerton MSA	85,800	80,000	5,800	6.8	85,700	79,800	5,900	6.9	83,300	78,900	4,400	5.3
Olympia MSA	88,500	82,200	6,300	7.1	89,200	82,800	6,400	7.2	84,300	79,400	4,900	5.8
Seattle PMSA	1,117,400	1,044,500	72,900	6.5	1,125,900	1,054,500	71,400	6.3	1,108,500	1,053,700	54,800	4.9
King County ‡	880,600	825,300	55,300	6.3	886,800	833,200	53,600	6.0	872,800	832,500	40,300	4.6
Snohomish County ‡	236,900	219,300	17,600	7.4	239,200	221,400	17,800	7.4	235,700	221,200	14,500	6.2
Spokane MSA	175,900	162,100	13,800	7.8	177,700	163,100	14,600	8.2	170,400	159,600	10,800	6.3
Tacoma PMSA	262,500	240,500	22,000	8.4	264,200	242,300	21,900	8.3	253,900	237,000	16,900	6.7
Tri-Cities MSA	76,400	68,900	7,500	9.8	75,500	67,300	8,200	10.9	72,600	66,400	6,200	8.5
Benton County ‡	58,800	54,000	4,800	8.2	57,900	52,700	5,200	9.0	55,700	52,000	3,700	6.6
Franklin County ‡	17,800	15,000	2,800	15.7	17,700	14,600	3,100	17.5	16,800	14,400	2,400	14.3
Vancouver PMSA	128,500	117,500	11,000	8.6	130,200	118,500	11,700	9.0	127,700	119,400	8,300	6.5
Yakima MSA	100,600	85,200	15,400	15.3	99,500	83,800	15,700	15.8	95,700	82,800	12,900	13.5
Adams	7,500	6,170	1,330	17.7	7,480	5,870	1,610	21.5	7,370	6,380	990	13.4
Asotin	9,670	9,040	630	6.5	9,670	9,040	630	6.5	9,350	8,780	570	6.1
Clallam	24,500	22,000	2,500	10.2	24,710	21,930	2,780	11.3	24,250	22,180	2,070	8.5
Columbia	1,600	1,280	320	20.0	1,600	1,300	300	18.8	1,480	1,190	290	19.6
Cowlitz	38,830	34,490	4,340	11.2	39,350	34,690	4,660	11.8	40,560	37,460	3,100	7.6
Ferry	3,320	2,730	590	17.8	3,330	2,780	550	16.5	3,120	2,680	440	14.1
Garfield	1,030	950	80	7.8	980	930	50	5.1	950	900	50	5.3
Grant	28,240	24,540	3,700	13.1	27,960	23,810	4,150	14.8	27,040	24,080	2,960	10.9
Grays Harbor	26,480	23,080	3,400	12.8	26,480	22,930	3,550	13.4	27,300	24,090	3,210	11.8
Island	23,000	21,450	1,550	6.7	22,930	21,420	1,510	6.6	22,170	21,140	1,030	4.6
Jefferson	8,920	8,030	890	10.0	8,980	8,020	960	10.7	8,770	8,200	570	6.5
Kittitas	13,590	11,380	2,210	16.3	13,670	11,440	2,230	16.3	13,420	11,820	1,600	11.9
Klickitat	7,890	6,440	1,450	18.4	7,880	6,420	1,460	18.5	7,330	6,120	1,210	16.5
Lewis	26,370	23,100	3,270	12.4	26,480	22,940	3,540	13.4	25,230	22,250	2,980	11.8
Lincoln	4,070	3,740	330	8.1	4,040	3,680	360	8.9	4,180	3,900	280	6.7
Mason	15,140	13,680	1,460	9.6	15,110	13,580	1,530	10.1	14,160	12,690	1,470	10.4
Okanogan	17,550	14,760	2,790	15.9	17,640	14,750	2,890	16.4	17,260	14,710	2,550	14.8
Pacific	8,080	7,180	900	11.1	8,110	7,060	1,050	12.9	7,660	6,860	800	10.4
Pend Oreille	3,470	2,780	690	19.9	3,490	2,830	660	18.9	3,260	2,660	600	18.4
San Juan	6,190	5,720	470	7.6	6,090	5,610	480	7.9	5,950	5,740	210	3.5
Skagit	41,820	37,050	4,770	11.4	41,620	36,510	5,110	12.3	39,870	36,360	3,510	8.8
Skamania	2,280	1,640	640	28.1	2,380	1,550	830	34.9	2,350	1,900	450	19.1
Stevens	11,910	9,810	2,100	17.6	11,980	9,820	2,160	18.0	11,270	9,560	1,710	15.2
Wahkiakum	1,220	1,090	130	10.7	1,200	1,060	140	11.7	1,180	1,080	100	8.5
Walla Walla	23,140	20,790	2,350	10.2	23,360	20,820	2,540	10.9	22,440	20,330	2,110	9.4
Wenatchee Labor Area	43,240	37,910	5,330	12.3	42,780	37,660	5,120	12.0	41,410	36,920	4,490	10.8
Chelan County ‡	29,090	25,130	3,960	13.6	28,720	24,970	3,750	13.1	27,650	24,480	3,170	11.5
Douglas County ‡	14,150	12,780	1,370	9.7	14,060	12,690	1,370	9.7	13,760	12,440	1,320	9.6
Whitman	18,730	18,060	670	3.6	18,820	18,130	690	3.7	19,270	18,800	470	2.4

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

March 1992 Unemployment Rates
State of Washington = 8.3%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary November Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Mar 92	Feb 92	Mar 91	Mar 92	Feb 92	Mar 91	Mar 92	Feb 92	Mar 91
Total Manufacturing Industries†	199,741	$548.33	$538.66	$527.20	40.2	40.0	40.0	$13.64	$13.47	$13.18
Selected Manufacturing Industries										
Lumber and Wood Products	29,325	$484.67	$484.30	$451.13	40.9	40.8	39.4	$11.85	$11.87	$11.45
Primary Metal Industries	9,243	$587.35	$585.47	$576.52	42.5	41.7	42.8	$13.82	$14.04	$13.47
Fabricated Metal Products	9,058	$533.17	$519.43	$511.60	40.7	39.5	40.0	$13.10	$13.15	$12.79
Machinery	18,723	$436.08	$431.40	$430.35	39.5	38.9	39.7	$11.04	$11.09	$10.84
Food and Kindred Products	24,262	$404.92	$400.30	$370.51	38.2	37.8	37.2	$10.60	$10.59	$9.96
Chemical and Allied Products	2,299	$615.42	$628.08	$717.20	39.0	40.6	44.0	$15.78	$15.47	$16.30
Transportation Equipment	52,828	$718.29	$721.76	$669.64	41.4	41.6	41.8	$17.35	$17.35	$16.02
Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries										
Construction	82,787	$698.06	$683.74	$676.88	38.0	37.2	37.5	$18.37	$18.38	$18.05
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	448,694	$304.33	$305.59	$256.08	31.9	31.7	29.2	$9.54	$9.64	$8.77

†Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

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